

This Program is adaptable.



Destination

The Azores Archipelago, Portugal

[São Miguel](#)

Ponta Delgada airport (PDL)

Length of stay

Eleven days/ ten nights

Summary

The island of São Miguel is the largest in the Azores, forming the Eastern Group of the Archipelago, with the island of Santa Maria 81km away.



Its settlement began in 1444 in Povoação and then Vila Franca do Campo, the island's first capital. Later moved to Ponta Delgada, currently the regional government and seat of the provincial government of the Azores.

Overlooking a natural bay, the city of Ponta Delgada has a rich history and architectural heritage. The Portas da Cidade (City Gates) are the perfect starting point for exploring the city. They are quickly identified by their three arches that link the seafront area and the Praça da República. Note the typical architecture that emphasizes the contrast between the white walls and the details in basalt, embellished with lacy iron balconies.



A walk by the sea to the marina will take you to the "Portas do Mar", where in addition to the cruise ship pier, you can enjoy an ocean swimming pool and an area with several bars, all providing some delightful moments of leisure.

Category of stay

Solo

Couple

Family

Friends

Groups

Divers and non-divers

Info weather conditions

The Azores' climate is neither too hot nor cold, with the most frequent rainfall between October and March. It is also true that summer temperatures are generally higher with constant humidity. Warmer temperatures than recorded, and winter temperatures may seem colder than those reported due to high winds.

When visiting the Azores, prepare for an unpredictable and ever-changing climate. You can tan in the winter by relaxing in the sun in a protected area from the winds. On the other hand, it may be necessary to wear a coat or warm up on the beach in summer, when the sun hides behind the clouds and the wind blows.

Water temperatures: 16°C to 24°C:

Air temperatures: 12°C to 25°C.

Details of program

São Miguel Island will be your base camp for the next 11 days. The idea is to dive into this incredible crystal-clear water 14 times.

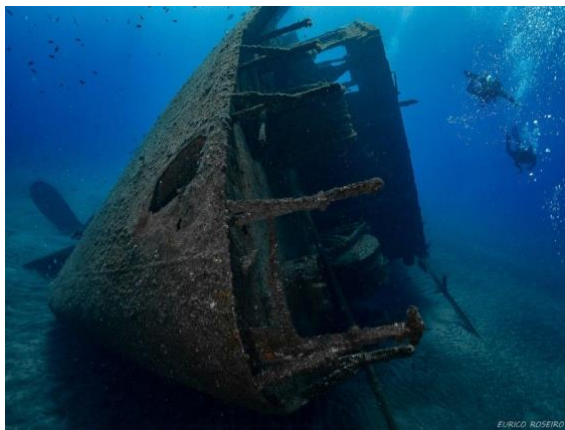
These are some of the dive spots you will most probably dive.

The first one is called **Dori**.

<https://www.portugaldive.com/best-dives/spot/dori-99.html>

"Dori", a 130mts ship that participated in the military Operation Overlord. She rests at about 20mts of depth on a sandy bottom and is one of the most popular dive spots in the Azores archipelago.

Here inhabit several species, such as Morays, Octopuses and nudibranchs that refuge in the shipwreck structure.





We can also see fish strolling near the rudder, propeller and lookouts, such as Barracudas and Amberjacks.

Dori is indeed a fantastic dive, not to be missed!



There are many others, but **Arcos da Caloura** is another spot you will probably dive.

<https://www.portugaldive.com/best-dives/spot/arcos-da-caloura-65.html>

The Caloura Arches are situated in a protected bay and between 5mts and 18mts deep. It is an excellent place for all types of dives, including snorkelling.

The top, at 5mts deep, descends to 16mts, where we can find one of the four entrances

for the main attraction of this place: an imposing cave where we can observe shoals of fish and some residents Groupers. On the other hand, the cave roof is regularly filled by dozens of nudibranchs of different species.

We find dozens of small species around the cave, such as Pufferfish, Kingfish, Plaice, Salemas, and Yellow-Damselfish.

Other dive spots in this location: <https://portugaldive.com/best-dives/spots/sao-miguel/all/all/all.html>

And we kid you not: after these days feeling the Azores, you wouldn't change the topside experiences with more days diving! So let's go for some tours of the Azores archipelago.

Visiting São Miguel



The East-side tour will take you to the south coast of the island. At Vila Franca do Campo, once the first capital of the Azores, you will visit the famous Queijadas da Vila factory.



After tasting this famous pastry, the tour goes to the Furnas Valley, along the banks of the romantic lagoon, where you are surprised by how "Cozido à Portuguesa" is cooked — in the ground. You will see, berried, what you will have for lunch.

After lunch, the hot springs area, with its fumaroles and springs of thermal and mineral water, from where the group proceeds, ascending to the viewpoint of Pico do Ferro, where you enjoy this superb view over the crater that surrounds the Furnas valley.

Continuing along the north coast — the tea factory, the unique tea plantation site in Europe, where you can enjoy the beautiful view of the tea plantation and the north coast, sipping a cup of tea. Returning to Ponta Delgada, a stop at the viewpoint of Santa Iria, with an idyllic view of the island's north coast.

Next experience: whale watching.

In the Azores, you can observe 27 species of cetaceans throughout the year, always in the company of a professional team of skippers, biologists and lookouts. Before leaving for the sea, a briefing on cetaceans, sighting methods, safety rules and the code of ethics for observing cetaceans in the Azores.

With the help of lookouts strategically placed on the island's south coast, the boat sets out to meet these unique beings on a fun, adventure, discovery, and scientific knowledge journey. We will provide you with an unforgettable experience in just a few hours!





Price per person

[Pricing on Request](#)

Included

Airport – Hotel – Airport transportation

Eleven days/ ten nights in a 4 or 5-star hotel, room for 2, bed and breakfast

Seven days diving, fourteen dives or OWD course + two days diving

One-day tour with a geothermal cooked meal

Whale watch tour

Tanks – AIR

Weights

Excluded

International flights

Meals or drinks not mentioned above

Equipment and diving computer

Options on request

Extra dives and night dives at your discretion and dive centre availability (payable directly to the dive centre)

12 ltr tank Nitrox +10,00 EUR

15 ltr tank +10,00 EUR

Diving Training, PADI / SSI / SDI

Other maritime activities

Other topside experiences



Azores pics – São Miguel





Place of stay at Ponta Delgada – 5-star
Grand Hotel Açores Atlântico





Place of stay at Pnta Delgada – 4-star
Hotel Marina Atlântico





Place of stay at Água de Pau – 4-star
Hotel Pestana Bahia Praia ****





About the Azores



Mother Nature has created a land full of natural beauty, ready to be explored, in the blue immensity of the Atlantic Ocean: the Azores.

To the East, on the Island of Santa Maria, the beaches of warm white sand are inviting, and the vineyards covering the slopes like an amphitheatre resemble giant staircases. São Miguel, the largest island, is seductive with its Sete Cidades and Fogo Lagoons. The power emanates from the earth in geysers, hot thermal waters and volcanic lakes, and the tasty "Cozido das Furnas" is slowly cooked inside the ground.

In the Central Group, the islands of Terceira, São Jorge, Pico, Faial and Graciosa are set harmoniously in the deep blue sea, where whales and dolphins can be spotted to the delight of visitors. On Terceira, the World Heritage town of Angra do Heroísmo, as well as its festivals, is steeped in history. Faial is the cool blue of the hydrangeas, the marina painted



colourfully by yachters from all over the world, and the extinct Capelinhos volcano, which resembles a lunar landscape. In front of Faial, there's Pico, a mountain that emerges from the sea, with vineyards planted in black lava fields, unique culture with World Heritage status. On São Jorge, the highlights are the Fajãs and the cheese, a unique speciality with an unmistakable flavour. Graceful in both name and appearance, Graciosa is an island of green fields covered with vineyards contrasting with its peculiar windmills.



In the Western group, the natural waterfalls and lakes carved out by volcanoes are dazzling on the island of Flores. The tiny island of Corvo has a broad, beautiful crater at its centre and attracts many birds from Europe and America.

These are the Azores. Nine islands, nine small

worlds with as many similarities as differences, but where all share the friendliness of their inhabitants.

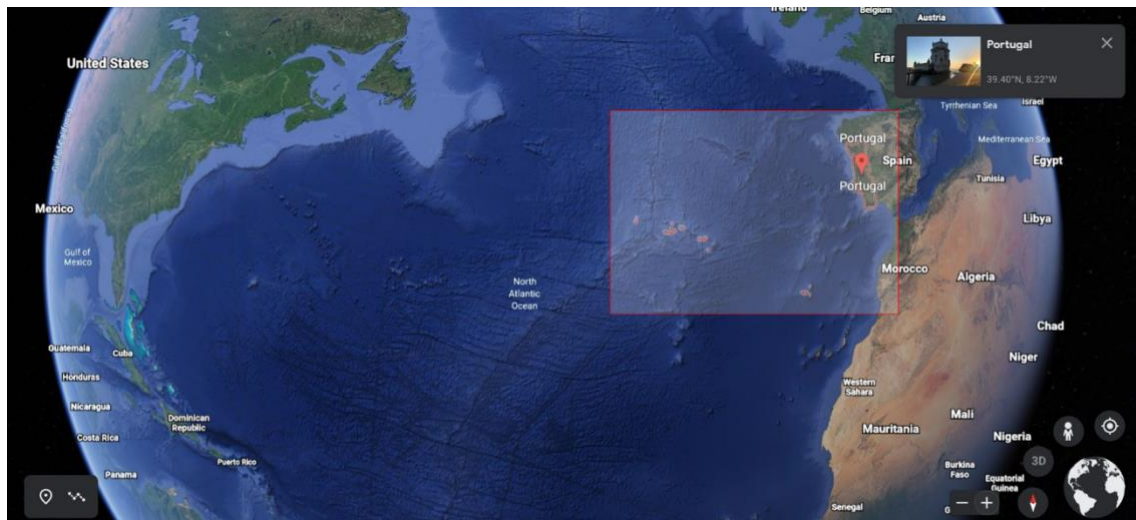


About Portugal

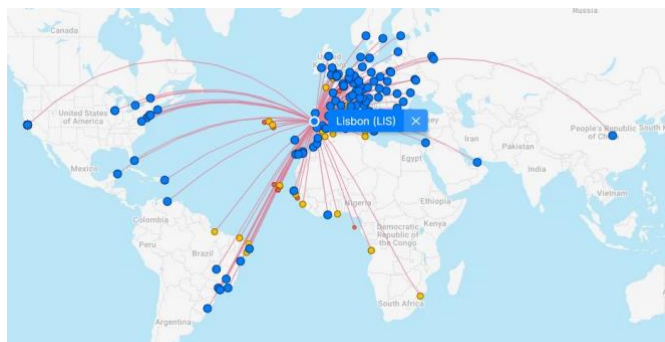
Portugal is the [most western territory in Europe](#), has a coastal range of 1000+ miles with hundreds of beach sites, and is a synonym for pleasant temperature and sunshine all year round.

Portugal is also a synonym of peacefulness, being considered the third most peaceful country in the world (ref. [Global Peace Index](#)).

LOCALIZATION



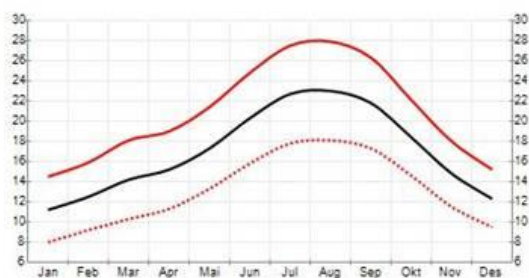
DIRECT FLIGHTS TO PORTUGAL (LIS)



One hundred fifty-two airports worldwide have direct flights to Lisbon (LIS), spread around 138 cities in 50 countries.



Average temperature per month



Average days with precipitation per month



PORTUGAL IDENTITY CARD

Source: Visit Portugal, the Portuguese Tourism Board website

With its mild climate, 3000 hours of sunshine per year and 850 km of splendid beaches bathed by the Atlantic Ocean, Portugal is the perfect holiday destination all year round.

Portugal is the country that has the oldest borders in Europe, with an exceptional range of different landscapes just a short distance away, lots of leisure activities and a unique cultural heritage where tradition and modernity blend together in perfect harmony. Its superb cuisine, fine wines and hospitable people make this a tourist paradise of the highest quality.

Situated in the extreme southwest of Europe, just a few hours from other European capitals, Portugal attracts visitors from all over the world.

GEOGRAPHY

Portugal is situated southwest of Europe and includes the Madeira and Azores archipelagos in the Atlantic Ocean. Mainland Portugal occupies an area of 88,889 km². It is 218 km wide and 561 km long. It has 832 km of the Atlantic coast and a 1,215 km border with Spain.

The Azores are situated in the Atlantic Ocean between Europe and North America. They have an area of 2,355 km² and consist of nine islands - São Miguel and Santa Maria in the Eastern Group, Terceira, Graciosa, São Jorge, Pico and Faial in the Central Group and Flores and Corvo in the Western Group. By plane, it takes two hours to get from the Azores to mainland Portugal.

The Madeira Archipelago has an area of 741 km² and lies in the Atlantic Ocean, about 500 km from the African coast and 1,000 km from the European continent (1½ hours flying time from Lisbon). It consists of Madeira and Porto Santo islands and the uninhabited Desertas and Selvagens islands, which are nature reserves.

CLIMATE

Mainland Portugal

The climate in Portugal varies considerably from one region to another. It is influenced by the relief, latitude and proximity to the sea, which offers mild winters, especially in the Algarve.

In the Porto e Norte area and Beiras region, particularly inland, nearer Spain, the winters are colder, although the temperatures are mild compared to the rest of Europe. There is some snowfall. It occurs most in the Serra da Estrela mountains, where we find the highest point in mainland Portugal (1,991 m) and where it is sometimes possible to ski.



The summers are hot and dry, especially in the inland areas (Trás-os-Montes in north-eastern Portugal and Alentejo). Temperatures are slightly lower in the coastal regions because of the influence of the sea.

There are often warm, sunny days in autumn. Nice weather at the beginning of November is often called "St. Martin's Summer" as this saint's day is 11 November.

Azores

The climate in the Azores is influenced by the islands' latitude and the Gulf Stream, and temperatures are mild all year round. The same factors also influence the sea temperature, which is very pleasant both in winter and summer and ideal for nautical sports all year round.

Madeira

Its geographical position and mountainous relief can explain the subtropical characteristics of the weather in the Madeira Archipelago. The climate in Madeira is exceptionally mild, with average temperatures varying between 24 °C in summer and 19 °C in winter.

The sea temperature is also very pleasant all year round, thanks to the influence of the warm Gulf Stream. It varies between 18 °C in winter and 22 °C in summer.

POPULATION

Portugal has a population of about 10 million.

The population density is at its greatest in Lisbon, the capital and its suburbs, where about 1.9 million people live. The second-largest city in Portugal is Oporto in the north.

Generally speaking, more people live in the country's coastal regions than in inland areas.

RELIGION

Most Portuguese are Catholics, but the Portuguese Constitution guarantees religious freedom, and there are many different religions in Portugal.

LANGUAGE

From a Latin root, Portuguese is spoken by about 250 million people in every continent and is the 5th most spoken language in the world and the 3rd if we only consider the European languages.

Portuguese-speaking countries are scattered all over the world. Portuguese is the official language in many African countries (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and São Tomé e Príncipe), in South America (Brazil) and Asia (East Timor, the youngest nation in the world), and it is also the official language in Macao Special Administrative Region of China.

In Portugal, many people can communicate in English, French and Spanish.

Source: VisitPortugal.com